

## Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W  
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O 240955Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9482

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1048

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, KN, KS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REFERENCES: (A) TOKYO 787; (B) CANBERRA 437

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIAN DEMARCHE  
INDICATING INTENTION TO RECOGNIZE DPRK, FONOFF  
WAS NEGATIVE BUT NOT FORCEFULLY SO. END SUMMARY.

1. AS ADUMBRATED REF A, AUSTRALIAN CHARGE HORNE  
CALLED ON FONOFF ASIAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN TAKASHIMA  
JAN 21 TO INFORM GOJ OF GOA INTENTION TO  
RECOGNIZE DPRK. TAKASHIMA (ACCORDING TO FONOFF  
NORTHEAST ASIA DEP. DIV HEAD ASAKAI) REACTED ONLY  
IN MODERATE AND GENERAL WAY TO HORNE'S  
PRESENTATION, POINTING OUT THAT GOJ WOULD  
REGRET SUCH GOA DECISION BECAUSE OF INFLUENCE  
IT WOULD HAVE ON OTHER COUNTRIES, AND BECAUSE  
IT WOULD COME AT BAD TIME. (ASAKAI SAID TAKASHIMA  
DID NOT ELABORATE ON LATTER POINT.) TAKASHIMA  
CONCLUDED BY SAYING FONOFF WOULD WISH TO GIVE  
FURTHER THOUGHT TO MATTER, BUT ASAKAI BELIEVES  
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AUSTRALIANS LEFT WITH CLEAR IMPRESSION THEY  
WOULD HEAR NO MORE FROM GOJ.

2. DAY AFTER TAKASHIMA-HORNE MEETING, NORTHEAST

ASIA DIV. HEAD SEO GAVE CHARGE SHOESMITH SIMILAR  
THOUGH MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF GOJ REACTION.  
HE COMMENTED THAT TIMING OF DECISION WAS BAD,  
CONSIDERING SOUTH KOREA'S CURRENT DOMESTIC  
PROBLEMS, NOTED PROBABLE EFFECT ON OTHER WESTERN  
NATIONS' RELATIONS WITH DPRK, AND ADDED IT WOULD  
HAVE BEEN QTE NICER UNQTE IF AUSTRALIA HAD  
GENUINELY CONSULTED WITH NATIONS MOST CONCERNED  
RATHER THAN PRESENTING THEM WITH STATEMENT OF  
INTENTION. SEO SAID JAPAN WAS HARDLY IN POSITION  
TO PRESS AUSTRALIANS, THOUGH HE FELT THEY HAD  
MADE KNOWN THEIR VIEWS QTE CLEARLY AND  
FORCEFULLY UNQTE. IN ANY CASE, HE WAS OF  
OPINION GOJ VIEWS WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT AND  
AUSTRALIA WOULD PROCEED WITH RECOGNITION.  
SEO ADDED (AND OTHERS HAVE MADE SAME POINT TO US)  
THAT GOVERNMENT EXPECTS REAL TROUBLE IN DIET,  
SINCE OPPOSITION, WHEN THEY LEARN OF GOA DECISION,  
WILL PRESS HARD FOR SIMILAR JAPANESE ACTION TO  
QTE BALANCE UNQTE GOJ'S RELATIONS WITH ROK.  
UNFORTUNATELY, SEO ADDED, THIS WAS NOT POINT WHICH  
GOJ COULD VERY EFFECTIVELY USE IN TRYING TO  
HEAD OF GOA.

3. AT LUNCH WITH POL COUNSELOR JAN 24,  
TAKASHIMA EXPRESSED MUCH STRONGER VIEWS THAN  
APPARENTLY HE HAD WITH HORNE, TERMING IMPENDING  
GOA DECISION QTE DISASTER UNQTE AND CITING INFLUENCE  
IT WOULD HAVE ON OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS AND  
ULTIMATELY ON KOREAN ISSUE IN UN. IN RESPONSE TO  
QUESTION, TAKASHIMA SAID GOJ HAD PRESSED ITS  
VIEWS QUITE STRONGLY WITH GOA AT VICE MINISTER  
HOGEN LEVEL IN TOKYO (OCCASION NOT SPECIFIED)  
AND THROUGH ITS AMBASSADOR IN CANBERRA.

4. COMMENT: OUR SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS LEAVE US  
WITH IMPRESSION THAT GOJ MUST HAVE SOUNDED AS UNCERTAIN  
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TRUMPET IN AUSTRALIAN EARS. FONOFF CLEARLY FELT  
IT WAS BEING INFORMED, NOT CONSULTED, AND THAT  
PROTEST WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT. SEO'S REMARKS  
ALSO ALLUDED TO AMBIVALENCE IN GOJ'S OWN VIEWS  
TOWARD KOREAN PENINSULA: FUNDAMENTAL SUPPORT  
FOR ROK, BUT SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT PARK  
ADMINISTRATION (KIM CASE, RECENT RESTRICTIONS ON  
CIVIL LIBERTIES, ETC.), AND DESIRE TO EXPAND  
RELATIONS WITH DPRB BOTH TO RELIEVE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES  
AND AS MEANS OF OPENING IT TO  
LIBERALIZING INFLUENCES OF FREE WORLD. THUS,  
DESPITE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH GOA DECISION TO  
RECOGNIZE DPRK WOULD CREATE, FONOFF MAY PERCEIVE

SOME POSITIVE ASPECTS FOR LONG-TERM JAPANESE GOALS.  
IN OUR DISCUSSIONS, FONOFF OFFICIALS HAVE CONCURRED  
IN OUR NEGATIVE VIEW OF GOA DECISION, BUT EVEN WHEN  
REMINDED THAT TIME IS OF ESSENCE, HAVE SHOWN NO  
INCLINATION FOR VIGOROUS PROTEST. SHOESMITH

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**TAGS:** PEPR, US, JA, AS, KN  
**To:** STATE INFO CANBERRA  
JAKARTA  
LONDON  
MOSCOW  
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SEOUL  
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